WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for using a mobile telephone to retrieve
information about an article, comprising:

    a camera, associated with said mobile telephone, that records
an image of at least a portion of said article; and

    a database, remote from said mobile telephone, that interprets
said image to identify said article and supplies information about
said article to said mobile telephone based thereon.

2. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said image is
received from said mobile telephone via a selected one of:

    an infrared connection, and

    a direct radio link.

3. The system as recited in Claim 2 wherein said direct
radio link conforms to a standard selected from the group
consisting of:

    Bluetooth,

    WLAN, and

    HomeRF/SWAP.

4. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said image

2 contains coded data and said coded data is decoded in a server

3 associated with said database.

5. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said mobile

2 telephone contains software that defines a structure corresponding

3 to said database.

6. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said image

2 contains coded data and said coded data is contained in a barcode.

7. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said mobile

2 telephone provides said information to a user a selected one of:

3   visually, and

4   acoustically.

8. The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein said information

2 comprises price information and said information is transmitted

3 back to said mobile telephone via a selected one of:

4   Multimedia Message Service (MMS), and

5   email.

9.   The system as recited in Claim 8 wherein said database
2   contains said price information in at least two different
3   currencies.

10.   The system as recited in Claim 1 wherein a memory in said
2   mobile telephone stores data pertaining to a plurality of articles
3   and said image is a video sequence.

11. A method of using a mobile telephone to retrieve information about an article, comprising:

recording an image of at least a portion of said article with a camera associated with said mobile telephone;

interpreting said image to identify said article; and

supplying information about said article to said mobile telephone based thereon.

12. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said image is received from said mobile telephone via a selected one of:

an infrared connection, and

a direct radio link.

13. The method as recited in Claim 12 wherein said direct radio link conforms to a standard selected from the group consisting of:

Bluetooth,

WLAN, and

HomeRF/SWAP.

14. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said image contains coded data, said method further comprising decoding said coded data in a server associated with said database.

15. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said mobile
telephone contains software that defines a structure corresponding
to said database.

16. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said image
contains coded data and said coded data is contained in a barcode.

17. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
providing, with said mobile telephone, said information to a user
a selected one of:
    visually, and
    acoustically.

18. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said
information comprises price information and said information is
transmitted back to said mobile telephone via a selected one of:
    Multimedia Message Service (MMS), and
    email.

19. The method as recited in Claim 18 wherein said database
contains said price information in at least two different
currencies.

20. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising
storing, in a memory in said mobile telephone, data pertaining to
a plurality of articles and said image is a video sequence.

21. A mobile telephone, comprising:

2   a camera;

3   software that receives an image of at least a portion of an

4 article from said camera, interprets said image to identify said

5 article and queues data based thereon for transmission to a

6 database remote from said mobile telephone; and

7   a display that receives and displays information about said

8 article from said database.